

Junior Master Gardener Curriculum and the Kansas Education Standards

The Kansas State Department of Education has developed curricula standards to assist teachers and administrators in planning local curricula and assessments. Although the standards are not intended to be a state-mandated curriculum they do provide a basis for the development of the state assessments.

The standards are divided by subject matter (ex. Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, etc.) and by grade level, and organized using three levels, the Standards, the Benchmarks, and the Indicators. A **Standard** is a general statement of what a student should know and be able to do in an academic subject area. A **Benchmark** is a specific statement of what a student should know and be able to do at a specified time in his/her schooling. An **Indicator** is a statement of the knowledge or skills which a student demonstrates in order to meet the benchmark. Indicators are critical to understanding the standards and benchmarks and are intended to be met by all students.

Four retired licensed school teachers who volunteer as Sedgwick County Extension Master Gardeners have reviewed the Junior Master Gardener curriculum and aligned the JMG lessons with the state reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies standards. They have completed their work on the Junior Master Gardener book *“Health and Nutrition from the Garden”* and the *“Level 1 Teacher/Leader Guide”*. In the future they plan to align other JMG books with the Kansas Standards. Those documents will be posted to this site as they are completed.

The documents that follow point out which standards, benchmarks and indicators are aligned with specific JMG lessons. This information can be used by teachers, administrators, and Junior Master Gardener leaders in using the JMG curriculum as part of an educational program. The complete Kansas Department of Education standards can be viewed online at www.ksde.org.

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